

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for developing a request for proposal by an owner, and a responding proposal by a design builder for design and construction of a product, comprising:

defining a requirements file for said request for proposal including a performance specification and a prescriptive specification by selecting product descriptors from an owner database;

combining said requirements file with owner information to produce said request for proposal by selecting prewritten text segments from said owner database;

electronically linking attachments to said requirements file;

sending said request for proposal with said attachments as a first overlay to a design builder;

opening and reading said first overlay with reference to a proposer database correlating to said owner database;

preparing a responding proposal from said design builder by adding detailed product descriptors selected from said proposer database to said first overlay and producing a second overlay;

attaching proposer information and a cost statement to said second overlay; sending said second overlay from said design builder to said owner;

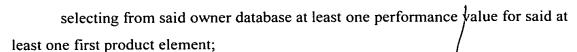
producing an electronic comparison file by comparing said first overlay and said second overlay; and

using a document-use global switch option in said steps of defining and preparing.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said defining comprises:

choosing the document-use global switch option corresponding to a request for proposal in order to convert the grammar of product descriptors to the imperative language appropriate to a request for proposal;

selecting at least one first product element from a first set of product elements on said owner database;



customizing said at least one product element and said at least one performance value by adding and subtracting text; and

storing a first representative for said customized at least one product element and said customized at least one performance value in electronic form.

The method of claim 1, wherein said preparing comprises: receiving said first overlay;

constructing said second overlay using first overlay; and

choosing the document-use global switch option corresponding to a proposal in order to convert the grammar of product descriptors to the promissory language appropriate to a proposal.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said preparing further comprises: choosing the document-use global switch option corresponding to instructions for a sub-contractor in order to convert the grammar of product descriptors to the imperative language appropriate to instructions for subcontractors;

sending said second overlay to third device of a supplier of materials for said product;

selecting at said third device a third set of data from a supplier database correlating to said proposer database;

constructing a third overlay by adding detailed product descriptors from said supplier database;

choosing the document use global switch option corresponding to a proposal in order to convert the grammar of product descriptors to the promissory language appropriate to a proposal to the design-builder; and

sending said third overlay to said second device.

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